

Garden State Skating Club

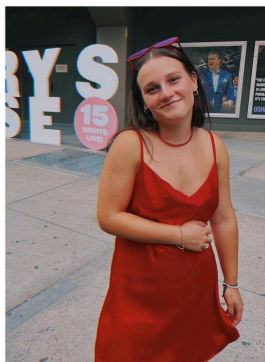
Newsletter Produced by GSSC Junior Board

Star On Ice: Noelle Zavattieri

By Camryn Aprilante

Noelle Zavattieri is 18 years old and the immediate past President of the Garden State Skating Club Junior Board. She is currently a freshman at The College of New Jersey. Noelle began skating in 2008 when she was signed up for Learn to Skate classes as a Christmas gift. Quickly after beginning lessons Noelle fell in love with skating and hasn't looked back since. Noelle has accomplished many things in her twelve years of skating including competing at Regionals in 2019, passing her junior moves in the field, and receiving the Catherine D. Morocco Award. Even though Noelle is in college she is still working hard on the ice as she occasionally comes back on the weekends to skate. Besides her amazing skating skills

Noelle has been coined the "skating mom" as she is always prepared for anything on the ice. Need a tissue, ask Noelle. A hair tie, a bandaid, an extra jacket, Noelle has it all. Noelle says her favorite part of skating is "the rush of being on the ice" and she is thankful for the friends she has met through skating. When Noelle is not practicing on the ice she is often coaching either Learn to Skate or private lessons. Noelle is an incredible and enthusiastic coach who motivates kids to skate their best on the ice and gets them excited to learn how to skate. Outside of skating Noelle is the vice president of Leo club, a part of Nation Honors Society, and plays the flute in concert band. In her free time she enjoys hanging out with friends, going to the beach, and getting her nails done. Congratulations Noelle for being the Star on Ice! The Garden State Skating Club wishes you the best of luck in college!



Welcome to GSSC's
Newest Members!

Breanna Apuzzo
Brie Haverstick
Emerson Kurzawa

2022- 2023 Junior Board

Junior Board Officers

Camryn Aprilante & Anna Merlino, Presidents
Syena Schaad, Secretary

Evelyn Jones, Syena Schaad & Jocelyn Xu, Vice President
Lindsey Lissauer, Treasurer

Junior Board Chairs & Members

Anna Merlino, Editor-in-Chief of Newsletter
Francesca Olivieri, Assistant to Test Chair & Assistant to Editor-In-Chief of Newsletter
Evelyn Jones, Assistant to Hospitality & Social Media Chair
Maren Vaclavik, Community Service Chair

Coach Interview: Mariko Heimbach

By Maren Vaclavik

At the GSSC, we have the most amazing coaches we could ask for. Coaches as the magic behind every skater, and they are one of the most important pieces of a figure skater's career. They themselves were (and sometimes still are) skaters and they know the ins and outs of anything you could think of. This season, we picked the fantastic Coach Mari, and asked her questions about her skating career for our coach interview!

How long have you been coaching?

“I have been coaching for a little over 2 years now. Being the new coach at a facility is just like being the new girl at school. I was lucky enough to be welcomed by the friendly staff at the Garden State Skating Club :).”

What inspired you to start skating?

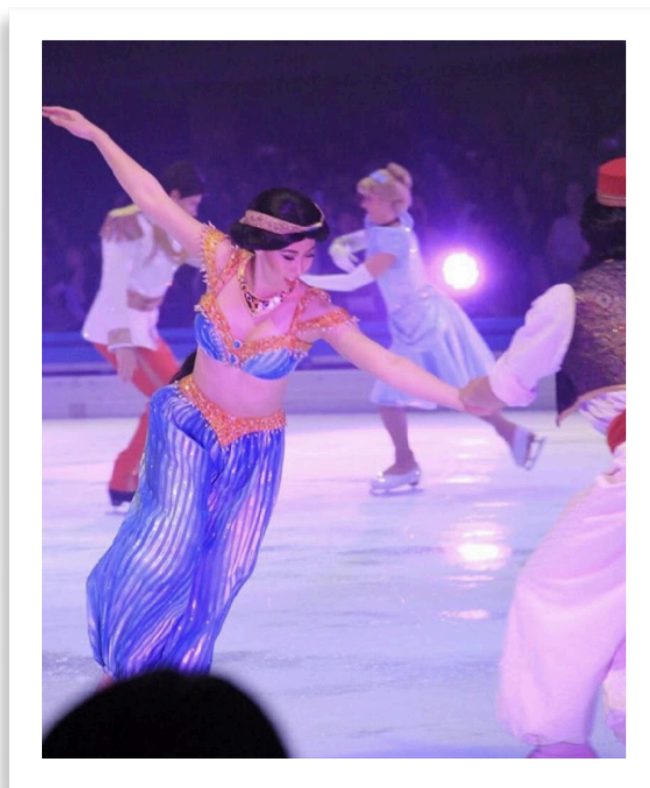
“Watching my sister swim was my biggest inspiration! She swam in the Olympic trials in Japan and the US National Championships. Growing up alongside a successful and decorated athlete made me want to work just as hard to achieve my goals in my sport.”

What is your favorite part about coaching?

“My favorite part about coaching is definitely the relationship I create with my students. I cherish all of the laughs and the bond that we share on and off the ice. It's so important to have fun and enjoy the spirit of skating, and my favorite part of my job is making sure that I see as many smiles as possible, all while supporting their journey. It's so awesome when we both celebrate a new victory together, and I am ALWAYS just as excited!”

What is your funniest coaching moment?

“My funniest coaching moment! What a great question! Hands down, it was when I was working with one of my new students on the opening of her new program. We were focusing on being graceful, like the classical music she was skating to, all while being confident and following through with her movements, She was doing great! She was really started to understand and connect with



the music... the BOOM. Toe-pick., Face-plant. The best part about it is I have it all on video, She was ok, of course. We both rolled on the ice laughing for a few minutes. This is a great example of my answer to the questions above about my favorite part of coaching. It's these moments that make this sport so fun!"



What do you love most about skating?

“Skating is 100% my release. During my career with Disney on Ice I adored the audience reactions and performing, but my favorite moments were late nights in these beautiful arenas that we were lucky enough to perform in. I would wait for the entire arena to empty, play my favorite acoustic songs, and just skate. I called these my “soul skates”. There’s nothing that can compare to it. Especially after seeing the arenas packed with thousands of people and then it was just me. It’s so important to find a release in your life and everyone is different. Some people love to workout, some people like to paint, or listen to music. Mine is skating. It gives me a superpower, where I can be myself. No judgements, no worries. Skating is just awesome :)”

2022 Figure Skating Olympics Overview

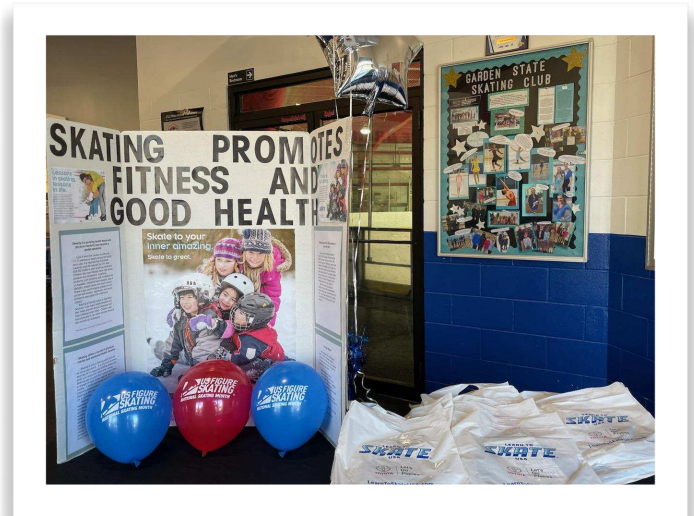
By Maren Vaclavik

The 2022 Winter Olympics were one of the most eventful and record breaking olympics to date for figure skating. Starting off with medals, the team event had ROC coming in first with 74 points and 6 medals, Team USA coming in second with 65 points and 3 medals, and Japan ending in third with 63 points and 4 medals overall. The men’s singles category had an amazing outcome with Nathan Chen coming in 1st! He had an amazing program, ending with a total score of 332.60, which meant he beat the rest of competition by 22.55 points! Another spectacular event for Team USA was the pair skaters event, with Alexa Scimeca and Knierim Brandon Frazier placing in 6th and Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue placing in 3rd! Lastly, the women’s singles event took place, with Alysa Liu placing in 7th, Mariah Bell placing in 10th, and Karen Chen placing in 16th. This year’s Olympics was incredibly successful and gave an impressive turnout for the USA team! Congratulations Skaters!

National SkatingMonth

By: Evelyn Jones

This past year Garden State skating club hosted a national skating event month at Howell ice arena. We kicked off national skating month with a performance by Evelyn Jones right before a public skating session. She skated to a song from “La La Land”, while people public skaters gathered around to watch. As Evelyn preformed, Noelle Zavattieri helped promote figure skating by approaching individuals to inform them about the background of skating and its amazing aspects while also handing out goodie bags with fun skating related items inside! The girls then took to the ice to volunteer and help individuals of all ages to learn the art of skating and some easy to learn skills! Overall, it was a great success. Happy national skating month!



Nicole's Heart Foundation Overview

By: Anna Merlino

Nicole's Heart Foundation is an organization dedicated to fundraising and spreading cardiac awareness. It is dedicated to Nicole, a high school graduate who unexpectedly suffered cardiac arrest. Nicole's Heart Foundation has made it their mission to help as many high school athletes as they can to become aware of any cardiac issues as soon as possible. They have successfully raised enough funds to allow them to provide many high school athletes with free cardiac screenings. They hold many events, including an annual 5k run that our Junior Board members happily volunteer at. While the annual 5k takes place, many of our girls help volunteer by standing at water stations out on the trail, handing out water bottles, snacks, and gift baskets towards the end. The Nicole's Heart Foundation never fails to have a successful year, and the Garden State Skating Club will always continue to be supporting volunteers for the years to come!



GSSC Holiday Show

By: Syena Schaad

Finally! The time has come that the Garden State Skating Club was able to have their annual Holiday show! Unfortunately, due to Covid, the Holiday Show did not happen in 2020, but it made the 2021 Holiday Show even better! Everyone was excited to preform, and everyone looked beautiful on the ice.

As skaters were preforming and getting ready to preform, the audience enjoyed some yummy treats and warm drinks. The skaters who participated in the show included: Camryn Aprilante, Olivia Aydin, Isabella Bickenbach, Seanna Haar, Shea Haar, Evelyn Jones, Sophia Korol, Emerson Kurzawa, Abbie Ferraro, Anna Merlino, Sophia Newman, Francesca Olivieri, Dana Piliere, Emma Purcell, Lauren Ramirez, Charlize Rizzo, Tessa Rodd, Syena Schaad, Landyn Sprengel, Maren Vaclavik, and Noelle Zavattieri. Every skater was spectacular! After everyone had completed their performances, the skaters has the chance to skate around and take pictures with Santa Claus. All of the skaters and coaches put a significant amount of effort into preparing for the show, which turned out fabulous. This Holiday Show was one to remember, and we were so lucky to be able to put on the show.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

TESTS PASSED

Olivia Aydin Pre-preliminary Moves in the Field 6/9/22

Brie Haverstick Pre-preliminary Moves in the Field 4/8/22

Preliminary Moves in the Field 8/22/22

Maren Vaclavik Preliminary Free Skate 3/16/22

Francesca Olivieri Preliminary Free Skate 4/29/22

Lindsey Lissauer Pre-Juvenile Free Skate 4/7/22

Evelyn Jones Pre-Juvenile Free Skate 1/14/22

Lila Earle Novice Moves in the Field 5/26/22

Syena Schaad Novice Free Skate 8/11/22

Noelle Zavattieri Junior Moves in the Field 5/26/22

Camryn Aprilante Junior Moves in the Field 7/21/22

William Lissauer Senior Moves in the Field w/ honors 4/6/22

Dana Piliere Solo Pre-Silver Dance Test 2/8/22

Solo Silver Dance Test

Solo Pre-Gold Dance Test 4/7/22

Solo Gold Dance Test 4/7/22



SAVE THE DATE

Garden State Skating Club Annual Banquet

Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 3 pm

Jumping Brook Country Club | Neptune, NJ

HONORING OUR 2023 GRADUATING SENIORS

Camryn Aprilante, Lindsey Lissauer, Anna Merlino, Jocelyn Xu

